

Management Plan Review Coordinator
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary
6600 Kalaniana'ole Highway Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96825

Submitted via email to: hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov
October 15, 2010

**Re: Comments for Review of Management Plan/ Regulations [75 FR 40759]
Inclusion of monk seals, false killer whales, spinner dolphins, turtles and corals in the scope of the HIHWNMS. Expand the geographic boundaries of the sanctuary to all main islands. Expand law enforcement. Develop healthcare and educational facilities throughout the main islands.**

Dear Management Plan Review Coordinator:

PONO is a new non-government group that is developing ocean awareness throughout Hawaii. PONO is currently focused on building a comprehensive community network to help recover the critically endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal. PONO supports the expansion of the scope of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary to include the protection of Hawaii's endemic monk seal, the false killer whale, the spinner dolphin, sea turtles, corals and the other marine life that are essential to sustaining a healthy ocean.

PONO also recommends expanding the geographic boundaries of Hawaii's Sanctuary to include all Main Hawaiian Islands. The survival of Hawaii's marine mammals and other ocean wildlife depends on a healthy and congruous ocean corridor and shoreline habitat throughout the islands.

PONO recommends the Sanctuary revise its management plan to have an ecosystems based management focus rather than a one-species focus. It is important for the people of Hawaii to develop a deeper understanding of the ocean they live in. This understanding includes the complex biology and interconnectedness of all marine life. It is time to engage our human species in the practice of restraint from taking from the ocean and to instill the most "pono" lifestyle practices for residents and visitors to revitalize our ocean home.

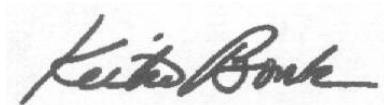
Please include more federal enforcement in Hawaii's Sanctuary. While working on the recent seal killings throughout Hawaii, I became aware that NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) has only about seven enforcement officers to serve the entire Pacific region. This is not an adequate number of officers for such a large jurisdiction with so many endangered marine species, complex fishing regulations and other enforcement problems. Hawaii has developed a culture of ambivalence towards ocean rules, regulations and the protection of endangered species. In many Hawaii rural communities there is little awareness of ESA and/or MMPA laws and no presence of federal officers to enforce these laws.

The Humpback Whale Sanctuary's educational programs for Hawaii residents and visitors have raised awareness of the Humpback Whale's plight over the past 2 decades. We know that similar education and outreach would greatly benefit other endangered marine species. The Sanctuary already has an outreach and education "arm" in motion that has the capacity to produce educational media and an understanding of the strategies needed to reach diverse ocean stakeholders, including surfers, paddlers, boaters, swimmers, snorkelers, divers, fishers, educators, students, and tourists.

PONO supports the vision, planning and building of marine healthcare facilities and ocean educational centers throughout the Main Hawaiian Islands. Healthcare and educational facilities are core to the future wellbeing of our oceans. Developing these institutions will serve to inspire Hawaii's local people, especially our children, and hopefully motivate many of our young people to become the scientists, advocates and policy leaders needed to protect and revitalize our dying oceans.

Once again, PONO urges the review committee to please expand the scope of Hawaii's Sanctuary to include the protection of our monk seals, false killer whales, dolphins, turtles, corals and expand the boundaries of the sanctuary to include all of these species Main Hawaiian Islands habitat. Also please include in this expansion an adequate budget to build a comprehensive outreach and education program for Hawaii's unique and diverse ocean life and more funding for enforcement of our protection laws.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keiko Bonk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Keiko" and last name "Bonk" clearly distinguishable.

Keiko Bonk, Director PONO
kbonk@hawaii.rr.com
808 734 4234
808 938 6888 cell